



Fact Sheet

February 7, 2005

Summary:

- Description

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is committed to ensuring the delivery of the right immigration benefit to the right person at the right time, and no benefit to the wrong person. USCIS has established three priorities: (1) eliminating the immigration benefit application backlog, (2) improving customer service, while (3) ensuring national security. The USCIS is a component of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that facilitates legal immigration for people seeking to enter, reside, or work in the United States.

- Responsibilities

USCIS possesses the authority to grant or deny immigration benefits – processing over 7 million immigration benefit applications a year.

- Service to the Public

Through a network of 250 local offices, Application Support Centers, Service Centers, Asylum offices, National Customer Service Call (NCSC) Centers, Forms Centers, and the Internet, USCIS is responsible for processing benefits which range from work authorization documents, to asylum and refugee applications, to petitions for immediate relatives to immigrate to the United States.

At a Glance

Senior Leadership:

Director Eduardo Aguirre Jr.

Established: 2003

Major Programs: Immigrant;

Nonimmigrant; Citizenship;

Asylum/Refugee; Backlog Initiative

FY 2006 Budget Request: \$1,854 mil.

Gross Discretionary \$80 mil.

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Employees (FTE): 10,207

FY 2006 Budget (\$M)

	FY 2005 (enacted)	FY 2006 (proposed)	+/- Change
Immigrant Services	\$797	\$878	+\$81
Nonimmigrant Services	\$412	\$463	+\$51
Citizenship Services	\$247	\$271	+\$24
Asylum/Refugee Services	\$139	\$142	+\$3
Backlog Initiative	\$180	\$100	-\$80
Total	\$1,775	\$1,854	+\$79

Includes both appropriated and fee-funded resources.

FY 2005 Accomplishments in Progress:

- **Eliminating the backlog** – USCIS is on target to achieve the President’s six-month or less processing time goal at each USCIS office by the end of FY 2006, having successfully reduced the backlog at the end of FY 2005 to 1.5 million cases, down from a high of 3.8 million cases in January 2004. .
 - **Improving customer service:**
 - USCIS continues to implement significant IT and process improvements, including electronic filing for certain immigration benefit applications (e-filing). Since it was launched in May 2003, more than 253,000 immigration benefit applications have been filed on-line.
 - InfoPass, a USCIS Web-based system that enables the public to go online to schedule appointments, has dramatically reduced/eliminated the lines of customers seeking assistance at our local offices.
 - Additional customer services were added to the USCIS website, including a feature for customers to register for automated e-mail updates as their case is processed, and customer access to case status information was further expanded through the agency’s expansion of filings at U.S. Treasury Department lockboxes.
 - Automated services available to customers by phone were also expanded. Now more than 50% of all callers receive the information or service they are looking for without requiring live assistance, giving these customers round-the-clock access.
 - **Ensuring national security** –
 - The creation of a Fraud Detection and National Security (FDNS) unit is allowing USCIS to work closely with the appropriate law enforcement entities in responding to national security hits on aliens who pose a threat to national security or public safety, and for identifying systemic fraud in the application process.
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- FDNS has developed a joint anti-fraud strategy with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), hired and trained nearly 100 anti-fraud officers, and is in the midst of implementing an unprecedented anti-fraud initiative throughout the United States.
- FDNS is also leading the enhancement of USCIS' background check process, which is aimed at identifying applicants, beneficiaries, and petitioners who pose a threat to national security and public safety prior to granting them immigration benefits.
- FDNS is also leading USCIS' information sharing initiative with key law enforcement and intelligence agencies.

FY 2006 Enhancements:

• Projected Fee Revenues\$ 159,000 155 FTE

The \$159 million in additional fee revenues and 155 FTE's reflects: 1) \$100 million due to the granting of Temporary Protected Status to certain designated countries, 2) \$31 million per new legislative proposals to increase the Temporary Protected Status fee (\$20 million) and expansion of the premium processing program beyond employment-based applications and petitions (\$11 million and 40 FTE's), 3) annualization of 115 FTE's per the L-1 Visa Reform Act of 2004, and 4) \$28 million in pay and non-pay adjustments from projected fee increases.

– USCIS –

On March 1, 2003, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services became one of three legacy INS components to join the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. USCIS is charged with fundamentally transforming and improving the delivery of immigration and citizenship services, while enhancing our nation's security.